

noble soul. In the mother colony the form of education was carried out by two distinct bodies—the Cadet Department and the Public Schools Amateur Athletic Association. The latter had twenty-five branches extending through every important country centre, not excluding Broken Hill. The Association arranged cricket matches and sports for the children as well as teachers, and their great national sports meeting always attracted a large attendance, and no fewer than 60,000 spectators got into the Oval to witness the Diamond Jubilee Celebration, while 10,000 to 15,000 had to be content by watching from the outside. Last May they had 40,000 persons on the grounds, and only last Wednesday, the occasion of the annual sports meeting, it was computed that there were 30,000 people present. That plainly showed that the physical education in New South Wales was decidedly popular. It was also appreciated in the country towns as well as the city. The second part of their programme was carried out by the Cadet Department. It had been crippled to a great extent by want of funds. Every child in the country had to have some knowledge of military formation. A certain amount of infantry drill was taught to boys and girls, the object being not so much to make them soldiers, but to smarten them up and make good citizens and citizenesses of them. (Cheers.) The Cadet Department was also doing its best to make every boy in the colony acquainted with the use of rifles. In every school where the number of pupils exceeded fifty they provided a certain number of what they called "dummy" rifles, similar in shape to the carbine, but of no use as a weapon. In all schools of any size they had from six up to fifty weapons, specially imported from England and exactly similar to the Martini-Henry rifles. About once a month the Cadet Corps trained in battalions in various parts of the city. Every week they also went to the rifle ranges, and were instructed in musketry. Every year they held an annual competition, and prizes for proficiency in shooting were presented. He was possessed of some experience in marksmanship, having until last year held one of the records of the Sydney rifle range, and he could say that the marksmanship of some of the lads was marvellous. One of the advantages of the movement to acquaint the rising generation with the use of these weapons was the rendering of the liberty and prosperity of this great Southern Empire safe against all foreign foes. (Cheers.)

Mr. J. J. Burston dealt with "Education in Victoria—the old and the new." Up to the year 1872 primary education in Victoria was of a parochial character. State-aided certainly, but only to a limited extent. These schools were governed by local bodies usually connected with the various religious denominations, and the teachers were of varying qualifications, some being chosen merely because they were regular Church attendants or were able to conduct a Church choir. The passing of the Free, Compulsory, and Comprehensive Act of 1872 (unappropriately termed a secular Act, a term which had led to its being regarded as opposed to religion) caused a transformation. It benefited the teacher, who was removed from the unenviable position of having to serve two masters (the Local Board and the Education Department), the pupils, as it obtained for them properly qualified teachers, and also for the public in respect of the better supervision and management of the schools. The curriculum had been from time to time extended, revised, amended, and enlarged, until there was now a danger of crowding the "three R's" out of it altogether. For his own part he doubted whether that everlasting expansion of the programme was attended with compensating benefits to the pupil. There was, he feared, a danger of trying to force too much into the growing youth, and they were apt to cram into him in the short space of five or six years all the knowledge that had taken the teachers a good part of a lifetime to acquire. Then, as regarded physical exercises. This might be a step in the right direction, and there was no doubt that military had a good effect in setting up their young men, and giving them the physical training they needed; but he believed they would be doing their boys and girls more permanent good if they turned them out in the fresh air and put them to some such work as digging the garden, erecting a fence, or paving a road. Kindergarten work, when accompanied with plenty of physical drill, was perhaps the best method of supplying the activity needed by the infants, but mat-plaiting and similar occupations would be suitable when the weather did not permit of outdoor exercises.

At the afternoon session, Mr. Urlaub contributed an interesting paper on "Modern Languages and the Teaching of Composition in our Schools." The labour and time he had devoted to the acquisition of an intimate knowledge with a few modern languages had, by reason of the profound pleasure which he derived from its attending educational advantages, proved a sound investment of brain tissue, an investment which he might confidently recommend to every one. There was a total absence of awkwardness or stiffness in the English language, and a spirit of freedom and force appeared to pervade it. He, however, regretted the indisposition on the part of the English-speaking race towards the study of other contemporary languages. There was that in every language which defied translation. It was his firm conviction that if the English-speaking nations wished to maintain their present position in commerce and trade they must adapt themselves to the requirements of other nations as assiduously as other nations were ever ready to adapt themselves to her requirements. The principal step to this end would be to eradicate the deplorable apathy on the part of the English concerning the study of modern languages. The manufacturers of other nations desired apathy on the part of the British towards the study of modern languages to continue indefinitely. It suited them admirably, Mr. Urlaub then, with the aid of children from Currie-street School, showed to the audience his method of teaching the children. Beginning with the juniors and going to the first class he got the pupils to, by means of signs, compose sentences, but, owing to the want of time, he was unable to deal with any of the other classes.

Mr. Urlaub was accorded a hearty vote of thanks for his paper.

Mr. Mueller moved—That in view of the frequently irregular attendance in many of the country districts and the larger country towns, this Union feels that steps should be taken to enforce the compulsory

clauses more fully, and suggests that the work of the 'School Visitors' should be extended to meet these cases." He did not approve of teachers having to go to the Court to give evidence when parents were prosecuted. If the School Visitors extended their trips to the country the teachers would be relieved of a considerable amount of work which was distasteful to them.—Mr. Warren seconded the motion, which was debated at length, all the speakers agreeing that something in the direction indicated in the motion was absolutely necessary.—Carried.

The following motions were passed, in the majority of instances without discussion:—

"That in all schools whose examinations fall within the first six months of the year one month for the Christmas holidays be allowed in computing the period of withdrawal qualification for the examination of juniors." (Adelaide.) Mover, Mr. Bronner; seconder, Mr. Sullivan.

"That the department be requested to supply the sheets corresponding to the 'First Primer' to all schools." (Wallaroo.) Mover, Mr. Mueller; seconder, Mr. Warren.

"That the department be requested to have reading-sheets, corresponding to the 'Second Primer,' printed and supplied to all schools." (Wallaroo.) Mover, Mr. Mueller; seconder, Mr. Warren.

"That elocution be one of the subjects forming the course for pupil teachers." (Adelaide.) Mover, Mr. Noye; seconder, Mr. Bennett.

"That the internal renovation of school buildings be attended to with greater frequency." (Wallaroo.) Mover, Mr. Warren; seconder, Mr. Mueller.

"That in order to further the interests of meetings of local Associations the Commissioner of Railways be approached with the view of obtaining reductions in railway fares for teachers attending Association meetings." (Gladstone.) Mover, Mr. Gallagher; seconder, Mr. Cole.

"That where no residence is attached to their schools, an allowance for rent be made to married provisional teachers." (Manum.) Mover, Mr. Billingham; seconder, Mr. Urlaub.

In the evening a large number of teachers listened to the lecture given by Mr. Andrew Ferguson, of the Agricultural School, on "Agronomy." It was illustrated by excellent limelight views, supplied by Mr. James Greenlees, of Plympton, and others. The President of the Union, Mr. J. Donnell, occupied the chair. Mr. Ferguson gave a general resume of the present course of study, giving many useful hints to the teachers present, and much information of general value. The interest in the lecture was well sustained throughout, and hearty applause greeted the presentation of some of the views. The first picture shown was that of Queen Victoria, and the whole audience spontaneously rose from their seats and sang the National Anthem. Views of the garden and agricultural plots at Richmond and Edwardstown and Plympton schools were thrown on the screen, and the details were explained by the teachers of each school. Those of the flowers at Plympton School met with especial favour. At the conclusion of the lecture a vote of thanks to Mr. Ferguson was proposed by Mr. T. H. S. Nicolle, seconded by Mr. K. Butler, M.P., supported by Mr. Miller, M.P., and carried.

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**THE TEACHERS' CONFERENCE.**

The teachers now sitting in conference made good progress on Tuesday, and when they adjourned for tea had cleared the notice-paper of all motions. The day was particularly instructive and interesting. After the Mayor, Mr. A. W. Ware, had declared the session open Mr. C. L. Whitham, M.B.I.S., read a paper on "The New Education and the Forward Movement in England." He contended that in the old country the instruction under the new system of inspection instead of the old method of examination was "more rational, more educational in its influence on mind and character, and more profitable to the pupils and the nation at large." Inspector Smyth followed with an instructive address on intellectual development, and Mr. Broome, the New South Wales delegate, spoke on the question of physical education and what it had done for the mother colony. He proved conclusively that it was decidedly popular by referring to the enormous attendances the schools have at their annual demonstration. Mr. Burston, of Victoria, who occupied the interval before the adjournment for luncheon, was humorous, and now and then a little sarcastic. The greater portion of the afternoon was devoted to listening to Mr. Urlaub's paper on "Modern Languages and the Teaching of Composition in our Schools." The lecturer, at the close of his paper gave an illustration of his method of teaching the young to compose, and although somewhat slow it had its good points, and members regretted that time would not permit of Mr. Urlaub continuing his illustrations as far as was originally intended. In the evening a large number of teachers attended the lecture given by Mr. A. Ferguson on "Agronomy." The Conference will meet again at half-past 9 this morning.

**THE CLAIMS OF MUSIC.**

The Elder Hall at the Conservatorium of Music is to be formally opened this afternoon, when the University will lend solemnity to the occasion by assembling in special congregation. A Chair of Music has existed in the University ever since 1884, when it was established by the exertions of Sir William Robinson, himself a composer of merit. But the beginnings of the matter were small enough. A public subscription guaranteed a little over £500 for five years, Sir Thomas Elder, with his accustomed liberality, providing more than half of it each year. It speaks well for the enthusiasm of the province in matters musical that after those five years the musical became practically self-supporting, and Professor Ives has presided over it ever since its inception. The Elder Scholarship is a thing quite distinct, being the fruits of an endowment personally arranged by Sir Thomas Elder upon the Royal College of Music in London. The Adelaide University, however, is likely to have the future bestowing of it, and it is clearly well that this should be so. It was the splendid bequest of £20,000 for the encouragement of music from the same generous donor that enabled the Conservatorium to be established two years ago, when to the theoretical instruction alone that had continued so long was added practical instruction in all branches. The result has been the adornment of North-terrace by yet another in the long line of handsome buildings that face it; and the enrichment of the musical talent resident in Adelaide by the importation of various instructors of high merit and performers of high personal attainment. There are already more than 250 students, and the system of teaching in hired rooms is now happily at an end, the Conservatorium building, with its carefully-planned arrangements, having for some months past been available. An informal opening did indeed take place in April, but the much-regretted bereavement sustained by Lady Tennyson prevented the Governor from carrying out the plan originally formed. Today his Excellency will be formally admitted to the degree of LL.D., and some other degrees will be conferred in the principal room of the Conservatorium, which has very fittingly received the name of the Elder Hall. Various concerts given there have already introduced the general public to their new possession, and it is to be hoped that the bond between music and democracy will continue to be tightened in this way. Mr. Hawels declares roundly that the English are not a musical nation, the ground he takes being that a country is not rightly called musical or artistic when its people can be induced to look at pictures, or listen to music, only when they are themselves artists and composers. From this point of view, it is satisfactory to observe that the University of Adelaide, before granting the degree of Bachelor of Music, requires an original exercise for a string quintet, of at least twenty minutes' duration—this of course in addition to all kinds of personal proficiency; while the degree of Doctor calls for a composition of twice the length, for a full orchestra. A very small percentage of the Conservatorium students will ever progress to that stage, but whatever they may learn within the walls will be a satisfaction to themselves, be it never so humble. Schubert declared that, however cross he might feel, the touch of the piano always restored him to good-humor. Of course he was—Schubert; but the difference is rather one of degree than of kind, and, as a modern critic says, a "good play" on the piano will often take the place of a "good cry" upstairs. A little music may be a dangerous thing, but not to its possessor. However, to enlarge on the claims of music is at this period of the world's history a superfluous task. A long line of its praises may be summed up by the less-hackneyed testimony of Bismarck, who called it "the most faithful companion in life."

**TEACHERS IN CONFERENCE.**

The second session in connection with the Conference of the South Australian Teachers' Union was opened at the Trades Hall on Tuesday morning by the Mayor of Adelaide (Mr. A. W. Ware). Addresses were delivered by Inspectors C. L. Whitham and Smyth, after which Mr. A. M. Broome (one of the delegates from New South Wales) dealt with the physical education in vogue in the schools in that colony. He was followed by Mr. J. J. Burston (a delegate from Victoria), who drew a comparison between the past and present systems of education in Victoria. Mr. Urlaub then gave an exposition of his method of teaching composition to children in the junior classes. On the agenda paper stood the following notice of motion, opposite the name of Mr. Billingham:—"That where no residence is attached to the school an allowance for rent be made to married provisional teachers." The consideration of this motion elicited the fact that one of the members of the union who had a wife and four children dependent on him, had to pay 6/ or 8/ a week rent for a house which was little better than a hovel. The motion was carried without dissent. In the evening's paper on agronomy was contributed by Mr. A. Ferguson, and was illustrated by limelight views. The session this morning will be opened by the Right Hon. C. C. Kingston, and an address will be given by Mr. Chapple, B.A., B.Sc. In the afternoon the members of the union will be present at the special congregation of the Adelaide University, which is to be held for the conferring of degrees, and the evening will be occupied by the conversations, to which the teachers have been invited by the regents of the Adelaide University.

**IN MEMORIAM.**

The services which the late Mr. Hartley rendered to the cause of education in this colony have received recognition in many quarters, especially from the South Australian Teachers' Union. At the conference of that body on Tuesday, the President (Mr. J. Donnell) and the secretary (Mr. C. Charlton) were deputed to tender the sympathies of the conference to his widow, and pursuant to the usual custom a wreath was directed to be placed on his grave. The president referred in touching terms to the loss they had sustained in Mr. Hartley's death, and said that his close acquaintance with Mr. Hartley had enabled him to fully appreciate his noble character. At the same session Mr. J. Harry (ex-president) moved—"That the sympathies of the conference be tendered firstly to Mrs. Hubbe (widow of Captain Hubbe), and Mr. and Mrs. Mitchell, of Manooora, in their sad loss." In doing so, he mentioned that Mrs. Hubbe was at one time mistress of the Advanced School for Girls in Grote-street. Mr. and Mrs. Mitchell, whose son had lately fallen in the South African war, were worthy representatives of the older class of South Australian teachers, and one of their sons had been a member of the Teachers' Conference. The members of the union had been deeply grieved to hear of the loss they had sustained. The motion was seconded by Mr. Barnard, and carried unanimously.

**SICK LEAVE FOR TEACHERS.**

At the present time the teachers in the Government service consider they are suffering under a heavy grievance in respect of sick leave. Under the existing regulations no provision at all is made for the payment of salaries to teachers when disabled by sickness, but it has become the custom to allow them, ex gratia, full pay for two weeks. If their illness has not terminated at the end of that period their salaries cease until they are able to resume duty. To obtain a redress of this grievance Mr. Warren moved at the conference in connection with the Teachers' Union on Tuesday "That the executive committee be requested to use their strongest endeavours to obtain an extension of sick leave." The members of the union fully recognised the importance of the matter, and the motion was carried unanimously. The resolution was the outcome of the following questions, which had been addressed to the chair by Mr. Warren:—"Has the executive of the union any knowledge as to whether it is proposed to provide in the revised regulations, shortly to be published, for a definite scale of leave of absence to teachers, and if so what is the scale? If no provision has been made will the executive take immediate action so as to obtain this boon before publication of the revised regulations?" The President (Mr. J. Donnell) replied that the matter had been deferred pending the decision of the Public Service Commission with regard to a scheme which had been laid before them. The report of the Commission had since been published, and as far as they could gather they would reap no benefit whatever from it. The teachers consider that there should be a graduated scale adopted, so that in the event of illness those who had been longest in the service would have an advantage in length of leave over those who had only recently joined.